

Serve your country. Serve your community. Serve DC!

JUNE 2006

www.Serve.DC.gov

Volume 1 Number 1

Commander Ready: Emergency Preparedness Training for Children



Who says a kid can't be a superhero...even one that dons a red helmet and a "go" kit? Commander Ready who is led by two members of the Ready Team: Reggie and Rachel, and accompanied by their dog Rodney have arrived. The program will educate youth on disasters and emergency preparedness through training sessions, hands-on activities and games.

Commander Ready, Serve DC's new children's emergency preparedness program, educates youth 5-13 on developing family plans, assembling "go" kits and being able to answer the question: ARE YOU READY? Armed with Commander Ready Backpacks full of survival items such as a flashlight, whistle, water bottle and first aid kit, children will engage in activities to better understand their role in an emergency and how to help family members. The program, one of the first

Who says a kid can't be a superhero...

emergency preparedness curriculums for children, will be rolled out in the 2006-2007 school year in District of Columbia Public Schools.



Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and his staff volunteered their time to aid Serve DC in handing out Commander Ready preparedness supplies.



Children at a local elementary school discuss what it means to be prepared in the event of a disaster or emergency.

The Commander Ready curriculum is already causing others to take note. At the April 25th unveiling of the Commander Ready program, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff and his staff, in conjunction with National Volunteer's Week, assisted Serve DC in handing out "go" kit supplies to youth at Peabody Elementary in Washington, DC.

The Commander Ready Program is being created under the auspices of the DC Citizen Corps, a program of Serve DC. Individuals interested in enrolling children in Commander Ready or adults interested in more information should contact Serve DC. ★

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) Board Members Visit Latin American Youth Center's (LAYC) AmeriCorps Program at Tubman Elementary

The Corporation for National and Community Service CEO David Eisner and several members of the CNCS Board of Directors met May 22nd with LAYC AmeriCorps members who work with kindergarten - sixth grade students at Tubman Elementary in the District of Columbia. LAYC is a subgrantee of Serve DC.

The CNCS leaders talked with AmeriCorps members about the in-class assistance and

after-school homework help the AmeriCorps members provide to at-risk students at Tubman. The AmeriCorps members described how they work with students on their lessons, reinforce key points made by the teachers, help students with their English, and serve as mentors.

LAYC works with elementary schools, such as Tubman, to place AmeriCorps members recruited from the local community. There are

25 AmeriCorps members in LAYC's program, with eight of those doing their service at Tubman. AmeriCorps members serve as Educational Aides in the classroom and offer after-school tutoring for students.

At Tubman, LAYC's AmeriCorps members have provided more than 1,550 hours of in-school tutoring during the 2005-06 school year and more than 850 hours of homework help after school. ★



Executive Director, James Cooper discusses with Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff the work of Serve DC.

image of youth as community leaders in the District. We continue to bolster our Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to effectively provide support to emergency first responders and to improve community safety. CERT training opportunities are provided by Serve DC throughout the year. And through a specially devised curriculum we will launch emergency preparedness training for children of DC Public Schools this fall with our Commander Ready program. With the Commander Ready program children will learn to prepare for emergencies and prevent disaster damage through a series of workshops and an instructional DVD.

Since its inception Serve DC has led the effort in making DC a better place to live, work and visit. During 2006 we are working to unveil our DC State Service Plan to more effectively coordinate national and volunteer service throughout all streams of service within the District. Consider nominating a District resident who has shown exemplary service for the monthly Mayor's Community Service Award. Stay tuned in the upcoming months for more information about the next national day of service, One Day's Pay, on 9-11-06. There are many ways for you to serve your country, serve your community and Serve DC!

James Cooper
Executive Director
Serve DC

Dear Friends...

It has been a tremendous year for Serve DC thus far. As a Commission we have made it our goal to strengthen and promote the District of Columbia's spirit of service through partnerships, national service and volunteerism. We accomplish our mission by enhancing the education of the community's youth, improving citizen safety, providing neighborhood emergency preparedness, and strengthening the community through service.

Serve DC engaged over 9,000 volunteers for National & Global Youth Service Day where youth empowerment and community revitalization created a compelling image of youth as community leaders in the District. We continue to bolster our Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to effectively provide support to emergency first responders and to improve community safety. CERT training opportunities are provided by Serve DC throughout the year. And through a specially devised curriculum we will launch emergency preparedness training for children of DC Public Schools this fall with our Commander Ready program. With the Commander Ready program children will learn to prepare for emergencies and prevent disaster damage through a series of workshops and an instructional DVD.

Since its inception Serve DC has led the effort in making DC a better place to live, work and visit. During 2006 we are working to unveil our DC State Service Plan to more effectively coordinate national and volunteer service throughout all streams of service within the District. Consider nominating a District resident who has shown exemplary service for the monthly Mayor's Community Service Award. Stay tuned in the upcoming months for more information about the next national day of service, One Day's Pay, on 9-11-06. There are many ways for you to serve your country, serve your community and Serve DC!



Scenes from the 18th annual National & Global Youth Service Day

The 18th annual National & Global Youth Service Day (N&GYSD), the largest volunteer event in the District of Columbia and around the world, was held April 21-23, 2006. N&GYSD engaged millions of youth in over 50 cities in the country and 116 countries worldwide, and helped to focus national and international attention on the amazing leadership of young people, while promoting the benefits of youth service. N&GYSD aims to:

- **Mobilize** youth as leaders to identify and address the needs of their communities through service.
- **Encourage** youth to create a lifelong commitment of service and civic engagement.
- **Educate** the public, media and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders.



Mayor Anthony Williams and volunteers assisted in the revitalization of the Department of Youth & Rehabilitation Services during N&GYSD.

Serve DC led the city-wide event in the District of Columbia for the fifth year in a row and mobilized over 9,000 District youth and their families to participate in 80 different community service projects. Volunteers painted recreation centers, planted trees along the Anacostia River, promoted civic engagement, engaged younger children in educational activities, and much, much more. Serve DC worked with over 125 different organizations, from local non-profits to neighborhood associations, to promote, support, and lead projects and events for N&GYSD. Serve DC also provided oversight to the Youth Task Force, comprised of youth leaders from across the District, who helped plan all aspects of N&GYSD, especially the Kick-Off Celebration event. The tremendous success of N&GYSD in the District of Columbia is largely due to the generous



Serve DC staff members pictured at the Kaveri Youth Center landscaping project.

support from our sponsors, the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation, the Freddie Mac Foundation, NIKE, Inc., Youth Service America, and State Farm Companies Foundation. Thank you to our sponsors for their support! ★



CNCS Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth Seale, Youth Service America CEO Steven Culbertson, Deputy Assistant to the President & Director of USA Freedom Corps Desiree Sayle and Serve DC Executive Director James Cooper helped kick off the N&GYSD opening ceremony.

Serve DC Events Calendar 2006

- 6/9 Life After AmeriCorps Conference** for AmeriCorps members transitioning out of their year of service
- 6/13 Service Learning 101** explore ways to develop a service learning environment that leaves lasting impressions and results
- 6/20 Program Director Meeting: Sharing Best Practices** in service learning activities that will keep your member wanting more
- 6/27 Audit Training** for program directors and financial staff to prepare for CNCS audit
- 6/29-30 Program Director Retreat** learn about disability inclusion action planning and discuss training and technical assistance to kick start your 2006-2007 program year
- 7/14 Disability Inclusion: What's in it for me?**
- 7/18 Program Director Meeting: Disability and AmeriCorps**
- 9/5 Commander Ready Launch** for Youth Emergency Preparedness Training in DC Public Schools
- 9/11 One Day's Pay** a nationwide community service event in commemoration of September 11th
- 9/11 CERT Drill** emergency management simulation

For more information regarding an event or story please contact Dy Brown, Communications Director (Dy.Brown@dc.gov) or Angela Butcher (Angela.Butcher@dc.gov). Additional information can also be found on Serve DC's website at www.serve.dc.gov or by calling (202)727-7925.

Serve DC Commissioners

Jacqueline Meers, Acting Chair
 Atiba Madyun, Treasurer
 Ruby Moy, Secretary
 Susanna Connaughton
 Brenda K. Delany
 Jose Dominguez
 Thomasenia "Tommie" P. Duncan
 Aretha Ferrell-Brown
 Brad Figel
 Linda G. Finkel-Talvadkar
 Rosetta Freeman-Busby
 Donald Galloway
 Barbara Gordon
 Tracy Gray
 Bulbul Howard
 Charles P. Lord
 Vince Micone
 Norman D. Nixon
 DeVera Redmond
 Robert Richards
 Barbara Rockwood
 Sandra Schlicker Renfro
 Derrell Simpson
 Jerod O. Tolson
 Virginia E. Hayes Williams
 Jennifer Wright

Serve DC Staff

James Cooper
 Executive Director

Millicent Williams
 Interim Deputy Director of Programs

Tim Fitzsimmons
 Deputy Director of Grants & Operations

Dy Brown
 Communications Director

Natasha Marshall
 Training & Technical Assistance Manager

Ron Seldon
 Interim Program Manager

Jerome Johnson
 Neighborhood Corps Coordinator

Christy Venable
 National Service Coordinator

John Savage
 AmeriCorps Program Coordinator

Kristen Henry
 Learn & Serve Coordinator

Angela Butcher
 Communications & Technical Support Specialist

Shirley Hall
 Special Assistant to the Executive Director

Lawanda Pelzer
 Receptionist/Staff Assistant



Serve DC
 Executive Office of the Mayor
 441 4th St., NW, Suite 1040S
 Washington, DC 20001